

THE

# SPIRIT OF MISSIONS.

EDITED FOR

THE BOARD OF MISSIONS

OF THE

Protestant Episcopal Church in the U. S. of America.

BY THE

SECRETARIES AND GENERAL AGENTS OF THE BOARD.

VOLUME XXXVII., FOR MDCCCLXXII.

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NEW YORK :

PUBLISHED FOR THE BOARD OF MISSIONS, AT Nos. 22 & 23 BIBLE HOUSE,  
Second Floor, Fourth Ave. Entrance.

1872

CBDP

v.37

1872

# MISSIONARY PRAYERS,

SUGGESTED

FOR PRIVATE OR FAMILY USE,

IN CONNEXION WITH

## INTERCESSION

FOR

### AN INCREASED SUPPLY OF MISSIONARIES.

1872.

I.

O BLESSED Lord and God, who hast never left thyself without witnesses of thy goodness and power, we beseech Thee to take to Thee thy great strength, and come among us. And as Thou didst prepare Moses in the palace, and Samuel in the temple, and Elijah in the wilderness, and Amos among his flocks, as Thou didst send Isaiah, and ordain Jeremiah before he came forth from the womb, so be pleased now and evermore to choose the vessels of Thy grace, to bear thy Name before nations and kings, and the children of Israel. Sanctify them, we pray Thee, with the Holy Ghost, teach them to endure hardness, give them perfect mastery over the flesh, a mortified spirit, and a ready will to do thy Will; make them lowly as the Baptist, watchful as Peter, fervent as Paul, and loving always, and wait-

ing always as thy beloved John; gird them with truth, make their hearts burn with thy Word, give them faith for a shield, and make their feet beauteous with the preparation of the Gospel of peace; that watching for Thee and gathering for Thee till Thou return again, when Thou comest and knockest they may open to Thee immediately; and with the crown of their rejoicing, enter into the joy of their Lord. Amen.

2.

O BLESSED Lord, who wouldest have all men to be saved, and to come to the knowledge of the truth: look in mercy on all lands that lie still in ignorance and error, and let the glorious Gospel of thy Son shine upon them. Plant and foster in each of them a branch of thy Church; and bless the endeavours of all Societies that co-operate towards

that end. Prepare fit men to be sent as the ambassadors of Christ to those who dwell there, and raise up sufficient help to support and encourage them that are sent. Give an abundant blessing to their labours, and make them successful to the saving of souls; through his mediation, who hath taught us thus to pray, and who sits at thy right hand to make our prayers effectual: to whom, with Thee and the Holy Ghost, be honour and glory, now and for evermore. *Amen.*

## 3.

ALMIGHTY God, who by thy Son Jesus Christ didst give commandment to the holy Apostles, that they should go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature: Grant to us whom Thou hast called into thy Church a ready will to obey thy Word, and fill us with a hearty desire to make thy way known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations. Look with compassion upon the heathen that have not known Thee, and on the multitudes that are scattered abroad as sheep having no shepherd. O heavenly Father, Lord of the harvest, have respect, we beseech Thee, to our prayers, and send forth labourers into thine harvest. Fit and prepare them by thy grace for the work of their ministry: give them the spirit of power and of love and of a sound mind; strengthen them to endure hardness; and grant that by their life and doctrine they may set forth thy glory, and set forward the salvation of all men, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## 4.

HOLY, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is

to come, who only doest wondrous things; O! send Thou those who shall go forth to proclaim the Gospel, touch their lips, and make them as thy mouth, and be with them in every danger, to save them, and deliver them, we humbly beseech Thee, O Lord. *Amen.*

## 5.

GATHER together thine elect, O Saviour, from the four corners of heaven; send forth thy ministers into all the world in the spirit and power of Elias, and bring in the fulness of the Gentiles. Quicken the dead in trespasses and sins, enlighten the ignorant, and bring back the wandering; and as Thou hast warned us that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night, grant us grace to be sober, and to watch always unto prayer, lest that day come upon us unawares; and evermore to live with our loins girded, as men who wait for their Lord. *Amen.*

## 6.

O most Blessed Saviour, who of thy great goodness hast given to us Gentiles the light of thy Gospel, and the knowledge of Thee, and hast appointed a succession of men to preach thy Word, and administer thy Sacraments; Inspire, we pray Thee, the Bishops and Pastors of thy Church with thy Holy Spirit; increase the number of faithful labourers, and fill them with zeal for thy glory, and for the salvation of souls. Vouchsafe thine especial aid to those who labour among the heathen and unconverted; and grant to all thy people, and especially to all missionary societies, the grace of grateful, liberal, wise, and loving hearts, that aiding in this holy work,

according to thy will, our prayers and alms may come up for a memorial before Thee, and be accepted in thy sight ; for the propagation of thy Gospel, and the furtherance of thy kingdom ; through thy merits, and thine only mediation, who with the Father and the Holy Ghost livest and reignest one God, now and for evermore. *Amen.*

## 7.

O LORD Jesu Christ, who hast commanded us by thy Apostles to walk worthy of the vocation where-with we are called, and as we have each received thy gift, so to minister the same one to another ; grant to all who are baptized into thy Holy Name, and specially to our fellow-countrymen who sojourn in distant lands, that they may show forth thy praises, who hast called them out of darkness into marvellous light. Preserve them, we beseech Thee, from the sin of offending thy little ones who believe in Thee, and from causing thy Word to be blasphemed among the Heathen. Make them as the salt of the earth, and as a light in the world ; that so, beholding their good works, and won by their holy life, multitudes may be turned to thy truth, to glorify Thee in the day of visitation, who art our Saviour and our God, blessed for ever. *Amen.*

## 8.

O God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our only Saviour, the Prince of Peace ; give us grace seriously to lay to heart the great dangers we are in by our unhappy divisions. Take away all hatred and prejudice, and whatsoever else may hinder us from godly Union and Concord :

that, as there is but one Body, and one Spirit, and one Hope of our Calling, one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism, one God and Father of us all, so we may henceforth be all of one heart, and of one soul, united in one holy bond of Truth and Peace, of Faith and Charity, and may with one mind and one mouth glorify Thee ; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## 9.

How many, O Jesus, of thy sheep have no shepherd ! none to show them their danger ! none to keep them out of danger ! none to lead them where they may find pasture !

May thine infinite wisdom and goodness, O Lord, reveal to us the means, by which thy Gospel may be preached unto them : and prepare their hearts to receive the truth, that they may be delivered from the bondage of corruption, into the glorious liberty of the children of God ! Send them pastors after thine own heart, full of knowledge, compassion, and zeal ; who, pitying their sad condition, may instruct them in the ways of truth and of eternal life. Increase the number and the graces of thy messengers and ministers ; and touch the hearts of all Christians with a true compassion, like thine, O Lord, for all such as are strangers to Thee and the merits of thy death by which they have been redeemed, that they may cheerfully contribute to a work so acceptable to the divine Majesty. And may thy Holy Spirit, by the preaching of the Gospel, add daily to the Church such as shall be saved, through thy merits and mediation, O Lord, and Lover of souls ! *Amen.*

## 10.

O MERCIFUL God, who hast made all men, and hatest nothing that Thou hast made, nor wouldest the death of a sinner, but rather that he should be converted and live ; have mercy on all Jews, Turks, Infidels, and Hereticks, and take from them all ignorance, hardness of heart, and contempt of thy Word ; and so fetch them home, blessed Lord, to thy flock, that they may be saved among the remnant of the true Israelites, and be made one fold under one shepherd, Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

## 11.

O Most merciful Saviour and Redeemer, who wouldest not that any should perish, but that all men should be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth ; fulfil thy gracious promise to be present with those who are gone forth in thy name to preach the Gospel of salvation in distant lands. Be with them in all perils by land or by water, in sickness and distress, in weariness and painfulness, in disappointment and persecution. Bless them, we beseech Thee, with thy continual favour ; and send thy

Holy Spirit to guide them into all truth. O Lord, let thy ministers be clothed with righteousness, and grant that thy word spoken by their mouths may never be spoken in vain. Endue them with power from on high ; and so prosper thy work in their hands, that the fulness of the Gentiles may be gathered in, and all Israel be saved. Hear us, O Lord, for thy mercy's sake ; and grant that all who are called by thy name may be one in Thee, and may abound more and more in prayers and in free-will offerings, for the extension of thy kingdom throughout the world, to thy honour and glory, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. *Amen.*

## 12.

O God, who hast made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on the face of the earth, and didst send thy blessed Son to preach peace to them that are afar off, and to them that are nigh ; grant that all the people of India, Africa, China and Japan may seek after Thee and find Thee : and hasten, O Lord, the fulfilment of thy promise, to pour out thy Spirit upon all flesh, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

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